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The New Aid Director

MISSOURI-BORN Fowler Hamilton, whose nomination was announced yesterday by President Kennedy, seems on his record to be an exceptionally well qualified man for the important post as head of AID.

This is the new foreign aid setup called the Agency for International Development which is to take over ICA functions with billions of dollars at hand to spend or lend in foreign countries.

Mr. Hamilton's attributes include an eminent standing in the legal profession, pre-war and wartime experience both in the Justice Department and the Pentagon, and wide travels since the war in Europe, Africa and Latin America, where he handled both law and economic affairs. In Congress he also will be remembered as having served for a time as general counsel to a Senate subcommittee looking into our airpower race with Russia in 1956.

Mr. Hamilton had been prominently mentioned as a likely successor to Allen Dulles as head of the Central Intelligence Agency. Though he held intelligence posts during the war, including service in the China-Burma-India theater, his added competence in other fields appears to fit him splendidly for the foreign aid job with the title of Under Secretary of State. Certainly the new AID administration needs the best that can be found in brains, talent and demonstrated ability.